Scheme for cultural organisations

507. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to State:

(a) whether there is any scheme for making grants to cultural organisations;

(b) if so, the essential features of the scheme;

(c) the number of organisations, if any, which have got benefits under the scheme;

(d) the amount made available to each of these organisations, name-wise; and

(e) the details as regards their activities etc?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) There are several schemes.

(b) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Suspense balances in Government Accounts

508. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

(a) the suspense balances in Government Accounts and the cumulative differences with RBI balances and the actual suspense outstanding lying under the debit and credit which are to be handled individually for settlement under the major heads as per the audit reports of the Central Government at the end of the last three financial years;

(b) the periods of delay in settlement for debit and credit items separately for the last three years cited above; and

(c) the steps taken so far and the progress made in settlement of these suspense balances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Details are given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(b) and (c) The delay in settlement is mainly due to delay in receipt of scrolls/put through statements from accredited banks/RBI, non receipt of payment claims from respective departments, delay in receipts of challans/vouchers etc. Constant efforts are made to keep suspense balances as low as possible by periodic reviews and taking corrective action to the extent possible.